



*Andraé Crouch*

*July 1, 1942 — January 8, 2015*



“Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of music legend Pastor Andrae Crouch. Pastor Crouch grew up the son of a minister in California and discovered at a young age that he was blessed with extraordinary musical talent which would lead to an iconic career that spanned over 50 years. As a leading pioneer of contemporary gospel music, the soulful classics that Pastor Crouch created over the years have uplifted the hearts and minds of several generations and his timeless influence continues to be felt in not only gospel but a variety of music genres. We are grateful that his music and spirit will continue to live on for years to come and our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and fans during this time.

—President Barack Obama





# Andraé Crouch

Deacon Benjamin J. Crouch was attending early Morning Prayer on Wednesday, July 1, 1942 at the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles, California. In the house next door to the church, at approximately 5:00am, the journey of Andraé Edward Crouch began as he departed the womb of his mother, Catherine Hodnett Crouch. Papa Crouch (as he was affectionately called) entered the house and after celebrating the birth of his son, returned to the prayer meeting. Surprisingly, he was summoned back to the house when the attending physician discovered another heartbeat.

Unaware that they were having twins, Andraé was the first of two children born that day to Benjamin and Catherine. Andraé's father literally fainted when he witnessed the arrival of their only daughter, Sandra, thirty minutes after the birth of his son. Andraé Edward and Sandra Elaine (the "other heartbeat") were birthed in prayer on the premises of the church. Simply put, the journey of Andraé Crouch began humbly in the presence of God.

Andraé's twin sister, along with elder sibling Bennie, would be an intricate part of the remarkable journey of their brother Andrae. During early childhood he was shy, challenged with dyslexia, stuttered and was the target of bullying. He was comforted in knowing that his sister was there to defend him. Around age seven, Andraé began to find comfort in memorizing Bible stories that provided assurance of God's guarantee to bring him liberty. While attending the



*"With His blood  
He has saved me,  
with His power  
He has raised  
me;  
to God  
be the glory,  
for the things He  
has done."*

church Sunshine Band, he would add melodies to Scriptures that he learned by heart.

Andraé's desire was to emulate his father, mother and their love for God. At the early age of 9 he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. It was important to Andraé that everyone knew who Jesus was. Andrae soon discovered that if heaven was never promised to him it was worth just having the Lord in his life.

Andraé grew up loving to be in church with his parents. His father, was sent by Bishop Samuel Crouch to Macedonia Church of God in Christ in Val Verdes, California, where there was no pastor. The small congregation was without a musician. While praying, Papa Crouch made a fleece before the Lord "If you give my son the gift of music, I will stay and pastor this church." The Lord directed Papa Crouch to lay hands on his son Andraé so that the anointing of God would be upon him to play the piano. A man of great faith, Papa Crouch obeyed God and two weeks later, his son miraculously began playing the piano. This demonstration of the power of the risen Christ added motivation to Andraé's God-ordained journey as his ability to hear melodious sounds from heaven took on a new dimension.

At age 14, he penned one of his most anointed songs, "The Blood". Thinking it was not good enough, Andraé crumpled it up and threw it in the trash. But Sandra knew better, retrieving it from the trash and saying "Andraé this is a good song."





The song would go on to be his first hit single, recorded with the first group he'd formed, The Church of God in Christ Singers (the C.O.G.I.C.'s). The song's popularity grew exponentially following the initial recording, becoming a standard in churches and hymnals worldwide.

Songs began to flow from heaven to Andraé and through Andraé. He became confident of God's call on his life. It was important that everyone without Christ should know who Jesus is. He learned early the importance of spending time in God's presence and daily devotion became a priority. Andraé was an avid soul winner and his passion to share Jesus without fear was manifested as God opened a door for his music at Teen Challenge Ministries, where he started their first gospel choir with recovering drug addicts.

Andraé influenced friends to join him in bringing harmony to the many songs he began to compose. He formed the Disciples with Perry Morgan, Sherman Andrus, Reuben Fernandez, and Bili Thedford. Later joined by Tramaine Hawkins, Sandra Crouch and Danniebell Hall, the group officially became Andraé Crouch and the Disciples. In 1972, the band Sonlight joined as his back up musicians with drummer Bill Maxwell, later becoming Andraé's co-producer.

Andraé's journey has been incredible. Since his humble beginnings in Southern California he has saturated the world

with the message of the Kingdom of God. His influence in the lives of countless musicians and singers over many decades led to the release of classics like "Through It All," "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus," "Soon & Very Soon," "My Tribute" and "Jesus Is The Answer."

Andraé's gift and talent took him all around the world, before kings, presidents and great men and women. Andraé Crouch and the Disciples appeared on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson, performed at the Hollywood Bowl recorded live at Carnegie Hall, and toured over 73 countries, expanding beyond the traditional African American gospel base to a racially and musically diverse audience.

Credited with revolutionizing the sound of contemporary gospel music, Andraé was one of the first black gospel artists to crossover to contemporary Christian music, with his song "My Tribute," being covered over 600 times. He launched his solo career with the release of "Just Andraé".

In his more than five decades as a musician and composer, the gospel icon's music has been recorded by artists such as Elvis Presley and Paul Simon. While dubbed as "the father of modern gospel", Andraé worked as an arranger with Madonna ("Like A Prayer"), Quincy Jones, Diana Ross, Elton John and Rick Astley ("Cry For Help"). His film credits include Once Upon A Forest, The Lion King, and Free Willy as well as the rousing rendition of "Maybe God's



## DISCOGRAPHY

- 1969 Take The Message Everywhere
- 1971 Keep On Singing
- 1972 Soulfully
- 1973 Live At Carnegie Hall
- 1973 Just Andraé
- 1974 Take Me Back
- 1975 This Is Another Day
- 1975 The Best of Andraé
- 1977 Live In London
- 1979 I'll Be Thinking Of You



*"The blood that Jesus shed for me, way back on Calvary  
The blood that gives me strength from day to day  
It will never lose its power."*



Trying to Tell You Something," from The Color Purple. Crouch also appeared on television as the voice of Dr. Seuss's Yertle the Turtle and penned the theme song for the 1986 hit NBC sitcom, Amen, starring Sherman Hemsley.

In 1979, he released the ground-breaking "I'll Be Thinking of You" CD, marking his first entrée onto the R&B charts, and earning him his third Grammy.

In 1987, the Andrae Crouch Choir sang background vocals on Michael Jackson's hit single "Man In The Mirror". The Andrae Crouch Singers were also featured on the songs "Keep the Faith" and "Will You Be There" from Jackson's 1991 Dangerous album.

In 1996, his songs were the impetus for the GRAMMY award-winning CD, Tribute: The Songs of Andrae Crouch, which featured a range of artists, including the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, Take 6 and Michael W. Smith, performing some of his classics.

In 2004, Crouch became the third gospel artist to be awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Crouch won numerous awards throughout his career that included eight Grammy Awards and four GMA Dove Awards. He was also the recipient of ASCAP, Billboard and NAACP Awards.

In 2010, he signed with Riverphlo Entertainment and released The Journey, which spent over 60 weeks on the Billboard charts. Its lead single, "Let The Church Say

Amen"—featuring Marvin Winans—was named as one of the Top Gospel Songs of 2012.

"The Journey" was more than a spiritual celebration of what he'd accomplished, but an extension of what he had become as pastor, mentor and musical legend. But the man who helped to propel Gospel music to a whole new stratosphere hardly relied on anything other than God's direction in and out of the studio.

Offstage, Crouch served as senior pastor of New Christ Memorial Church in San Fernando California, continuing a legacy that was started by his parents over 50 years ago. It was a role he took on in 1995 after the passing of his brother, with twin sister Sandra at his side as co-pastor.

Andrae Edward Crouch's earthly journey ended January 8, 2015 with the other heartbeat, twin, Sandra Elaine at his side. The voices of his music are: The Church of God in Christ Singers (the C.O.G.I.C.'s), The Disciples and The Andrae Crouch Singers. He is enjoying a great reunion with his parents, Bishop Benjamin and Catherine Crouch who preceded him in death along with his brother, Benjamin Jr. He leaves to celebrate his journey his twin, Sandra Elaine, nephews Kenneth and Keith, niece Sonia, sister-in-law Marie, favorite Aunt Harriet Canister, his long time faithful assistant Verdine Parker and a host of relatives and great friends. He finished well! To God be the glory!

1981 Don't Give Up  
1981 More Of The Best  
1982 Finally  
1983 Let's Worship Him  
1984 No Time To Lose  
1986 Autograph  
1990 His Best  
1991 Volume 1: The Classics  
1991 Volume 2: We Sing Praises  
1991 Volume 3: Contemporary Man

1994 Mercy  
1995 The Light Years  
1997 Pray  
1998 Gift Of Christmas  
1999 Hall Of Fame  
2002 Legends of Gospel  
2003 History Makers  
2003 Mega 3: Andrae Crouch 1  
2005 Definitive Greatest Hits  
2005 The Very Best of

2006 Mighty Wind  
2006 I Got Jesus  
2008 Platinum Praise Collection  
2011 The Journey  
2013 Live In Los Angeles





# *Andraé Crouch Celebration Of Life*

*Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, Officiant*

## **Processional**

**Kurt Carr & The Andraé Crouch Tribute Choir**

## **Prayer**

**Old Testament Scripture Reading (Psalm 100:1-5)**

**New Testament Scripture Reading (John 16:33)**

**The Andraé Crouch Tribute Choir**

## **Solo**

## **Expressions**

## **Musical Tribute**

## **Expressions**

## **Solo**

## **Expressions**

## **Musical Tribute**

## **Video Expressions**

## **Solo**

## **Reading of Acknowledgements**

## **Piano Solo**

## **Expressions**

## **Solo**

**Magnify The Lord With Me,  
Bless The Lord**

**Bishop Joe L. Ealy**

**Pastor Kenneth Cook**

**Pastor Gregory Trent**

**"God Is On Our Side"**

**BeBe Winans**

**Bishop Roderick Caesar**

**Pastor Joe Sellidon**

**Bishop Clyde Ramalaine**

**Yolanda Adams & Kristle Murden**

**Rev. Jesse Jackson**

**Bishop George D. McKinney**

**Ledisi**

**Dr. Bobby Jones**

**Kurt Carr**

**Carman Licciardello**

**Israel Houghton, Tommy Sims,  
and Jonathan Butler**

**Bishop Charles Blake, Kenneth  
Copeland, Bill Gaither, Michael W.  
Smith, and Bishop T.D. Jakes**

**Pastor Shirley Caesar**

**Pastor Carol Houston**

**Richard Smallwood**

**Kirk Franklin**

**Donald Lawrence**

**CeCe Winans**



**New Christ Memorial Church Remarks**

**Pastor La Vern Moore**

**Solo**

**Tata Vega**

**Expressions**

**Bishop Barbara Amos**

**Musical Tribute**

**Donnie McClurkin & The Disciples  
Tribute Ensemble**

**Remarks**

**Pastor Sandra Crouch**

**Congregational Song— The Blood**

**Donald Lawrence & the  
Andraé Crouch Tribute Choir**

**Eulogy**

**Pastor Marvin Winans**

**Recessional**

**"Let The Church Say Amen"**

### **INTERMENT PRIVATE**

*Final Arrangements provided by Angelus Funeral Home*

### **PALLBEARERS**

**RAYMOND MILES**

**TORY DEHAAN**

**KIYOSHI KINOSHITA**

**FRANK GONZALEZ**

**NOAH BROWN**

**SAMUEL CAMPBELL**

On behalf of the family of Andrae' Crouch, there are no words to express how thankful we are for your support during this difficult time. Your prayers have truly been felt and your presence helped to make the weight a little lighter. Whatever sacrifice you made to help us celebrate the life of our dear Andrae' Crouch we say THANK YOU, we love you and may God bless you!!

Special thanks to...

Demetrus Alexander

Howard Rachinski

Mano Hanes

Bill Maxwell

Linda McCrary

Every singer and musician

Brian Mayes - Nashville Publicity

Pat Shields - Black Dot & Team

Edna Sims - Public Relations & Team

Lisa Collins - LA Focus

Valerie Williamson

Gwen McClendon - New Act Travel

Robyn Hill - Personal Assistant to Sandra Crouch

Tee Garlington

Cynthia Evans-Joseph

Kurt Carr

Kenneth Copeland Ministries

Ray & Barbara Miles

Fred & Suzi Wehba

David Byerley

Bill & Judy Dodson

Nathan DiGesare

Carman

Bishop Charles Blake & the West Angeles Church staff

Bishop Kenneth Ulmer & the Faithful Central Bible Church staff

Donnie McClurkin

Richard Gumbs

Morris Chapman

Suzanne Cadena

Ejugwo Omakwu





WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

January 21, 2015

To the Family & Friends of Andraé Crouch

I was saddened to learn of Andraé's passing, and my heart goes out to his beloved sister, Sandra, and all those gathered in Los Angeles to celebrate his remarkable life and music.

As one of gospel's greatest talents, Andraé used his extraordinary gift and his belief in God to heal hearts, mend minds, and minister to the needs of the community. He brought comfort and joy to all who knew him, and he will live on through his legendary body of work and through the voices of the many artists whose gifts he nurtured.

Andraé has brought his music home to his Father, and I join you in honoring a good friend and faithful servant. He has truly earned his eternal reward.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton



## *Tell Them*

*Tell them on the streets and on the highways,  
Tell them even on the byways...  
Tell them I can mend the broken hearts  
and restore the ones who parted...  
I came to let them know...  
...They must know*



*Tell them  
even if they don't believe you  
Tell them even if they don't receive you  
Tell them for me please.  
Tell them that I love them  
and I came to let them know.*





# *Pastor...*

*Our hearts are heavy at the thought of not having you here with us. You lived, preached, sang and taught JESUS. You loved us, prayed for us, supported us and were a truly devoted servant of Christ. The best source of comfort we have is that you are finally with the one you told the world about all of your life. So our dear Pastor Andrae' Crouch, although we will miss you, we are more grateful that God blessed us to have had you as a leader and friend. We will continue to make sure that everyone that comes through the doors of New Christ Memorial Church knows that Jesus loves them. You will forever be in our hearts!*







# Andraé

My twin...My womb-mate...My best friend...My heart...You always wanted to do things first. Well, you did. You were born first. You received Jesus first. You took your overseas trip first. You led someone to the Lord first (as I watched).

I tried to keep you here Andrae, but you wanted to be with Jesus more. After awhile it became selfish for me to keep fighting to keep you here when you wanted to leave.

You told me for weeks, "Sandra I'm tired, I can't fight anymore". But you tried to fight for me because you knew how bad I would hurt not having my twin.

Andraé, when you closed your eyes for the last time here on this earth, I can honestly say that the peace I felt was overwhelming. I know you're happier now than you've ever been and that makes me happy. There is no comparison to the joy you're experiencing now,— it is so sweet.

Oh, I almost forgot Andraé, people are singing your music more now than ever,— using your words to tell people about Jesus. I can go on and on, but I will stop here. You made it home and I will see you when my assignment is over.

Until then...

I'm gonna keep on singing,

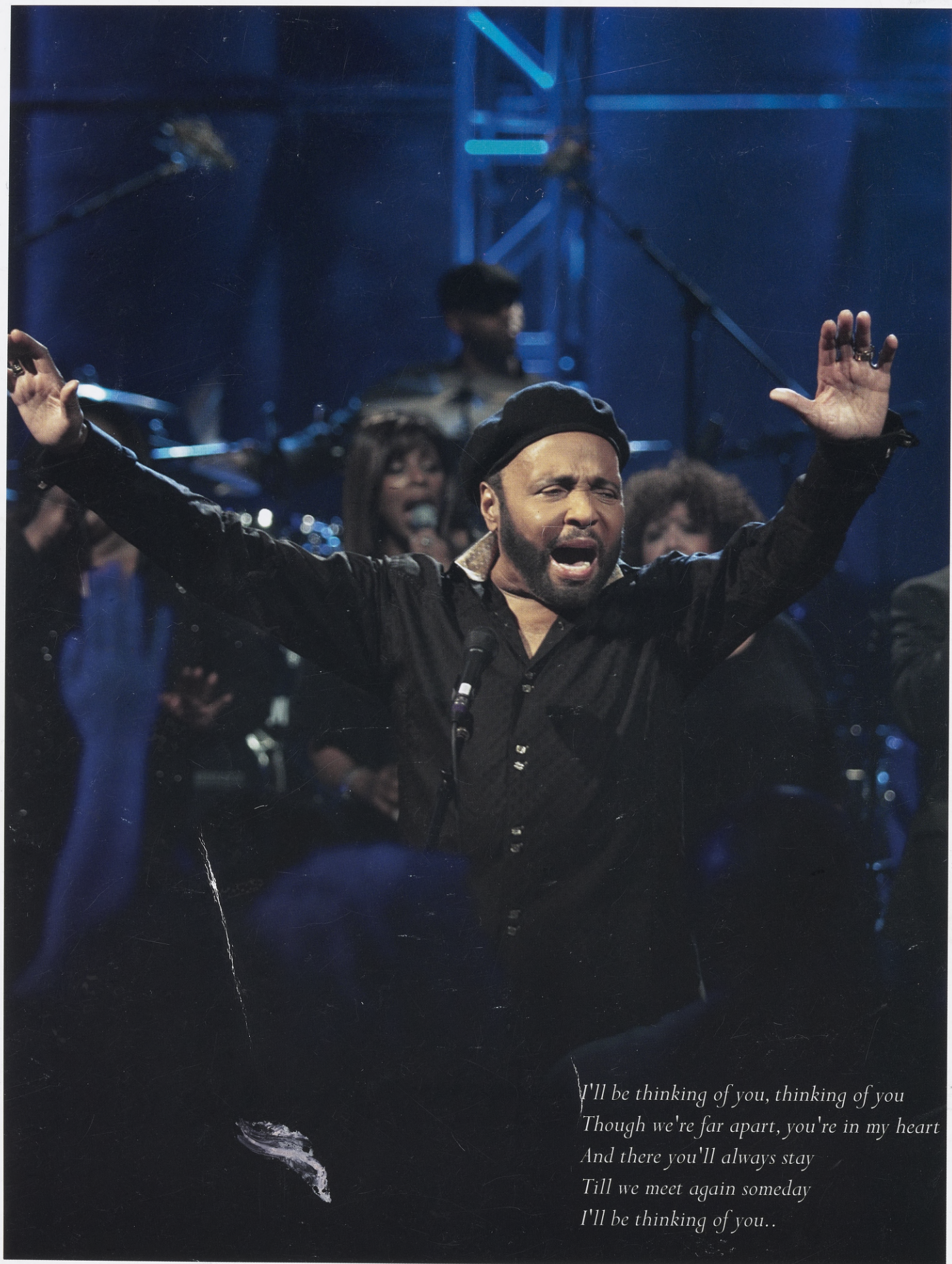
I'm gonna keep on shouting,

I'm gonna keep on lifting my voice and LET the world know that Jesus saves.

Your twin,

Sandra





*I'll be thinking of you, thinking of you  
Though we're far apart, you're in my heart  
And there you'll always stay  
Till we meet again someday  
I'll be thinking of you..*